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A Note From Our Agency Director

If you follow the South Carolina State Library, you know that equity, diversity, and inclusion are important to us. Public libraries provide opportunities to everyone in their communities through access to information. If you are also interested in equity, diversity, and inclusion, I encourage you to follow the current broadband discussion happening in South Carolina.

The broadband issue is perhaps the single, most important issue facing our state today, and it will directly impact our future economic and educational success. Broadband, the internet, Wi-Fi, Mi-Fi, megabytes per second (Mbps), fiber, satellite, and a dozen additional words used to discuss connectivity in South Carolina can get confusing quickly. Do not be discouraged - stay with me here; I won't go into the weeds too far! Broadband internet access matters now more than ever in today's technology-focused environment. Broadband access has a direct impact on all of us, our economy, and our educational system. Equity, unemployment, access to health care, business development, student achievement, poverty, crime, and many other small and large issues correlate to broadband internet access. Without access to information, our children are not prepared for college, technical schools, or the workforce, and are unable to compete with peers who have access to online resources.

The South Carolina State Library has been deeply involved in the discussion of internet connectivity for a number of years. Over the last

three years, we have diligently worked to ensure that every library in South Carolina has high-speed internet so that library patrons in rural areas of South Carolina would have access to information at the same speed as those in more populated areas of our state. We accomplished our goal earlier this year when we brought the four remaining county libraries up to a connectivity speed of 100 Mbps, which is considered high-speed. Why does connection speed matter? Very simply put, the slower the connection speed, the more likely a person is to experience a loss of connection or an inability to load some webpages. This matters to people who are using the library's resources to apply for jobs online because, with a slow connection, they may lose their connection while applying for a job. High-speed internet access matters to children, families, and teachers who are working to provide online learning to students. In the last several months, much has been said about the business of South Carolina. Businesses are more likely to build in areas where there is high-speed internet access, as high-speed access is now considered a business requirement.

You may live in an area of South Carolina where you have choices regarding which internet provider you can use for service. It may surprise you to know that there are places in South Carolina that not only do not have choices regarding service providers, but they do not have any providers in the area at all. These areas are considered dead zones by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Areas of our state lack the basic infrastructure to support broadband access on a large scale. In 2018, the South Carolina State Library launched a Homework Help Center pilot project to address the lack of equity in access to internet connectivity in areas of our state with a poverty index of 70% or greater. The Homework Help Center project evolved into AccessSC, which provides mobile hotspot devices and digital literacy instruction to public library staff and patrons in underserved, rural communities. Families with children in school, who do not have internet access in their homes, received devices for long-term checkout through their public library for educational purposes. Additionally, digital literacy instruction is provided to ensure families receiving devices can use them. Not only are we addressing the immediate need, but we hope that data gathered as a result of the AccessSC program will contribute to a better understanding of the access needs of students and library patrons in rural areas, which can then be used to develop a stronger long-term technology infrastructure.

A successful broadband internet access plan would include the development of an infrastructure system, provider choices, affordable plans, and digital literacy education. The Office of Regulatory Staff is leading the efforts to develop a comprehensive plan in partnership with the Department of Education, South Carolina Education Television

(SCETV), the Department of Administration, and others. We are excited to see this step taken towards the development of a long-term plan that will address the needs of South Carolinians. I encourage you to follow the broadband discussion, ask questions, and get involved. This is an issue that, when resolved, will provide true equity of access and will elevate our collective opportunity for success.

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." - Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1937.



Warm Regards,

Leesa
SCSL Agency Director

SC Libraries



August Webinars

This month's training calendar is packed with diverse topics targeting a variety of library needs. Remember to register prior to attending to receive the necessary log-in information.

- [Navigating Uncertainty and Stress with Mindfulness \(August 11\)](#) - Find support for library staff and help them manage the stress and anxiety brought on by the COVID - 19 pandemic.
- [Impact Grant Q & A \(August 18\)](#) - The application cycle is open for LSTA Impact Grants. Let Grants Coordinator Wendy Coplen answer all of your questions regarding the application process.
- [Expanding Creativity in the Workplace \(August 20\)](#) - Tap into your creative potential and find unique ways to improve communication,

teamwork, leadership, and imagination.

- [Mindfulness Practices for Young Children \(August 25\)](#) - Explore age-appropriate ways to share stress-reducing mindfulness practices with children and families.
- [Dementia Friendly Libraries: Activities for Outreach to People with Dementia \(August 25\)](#) - Hear about emerging best practices in staff training for dementia services and communication, understand the therapeutic effects of library reading and music programs, and select model library programs, including Memory Cafes, to directly serve those living with dementia in your user base.
- [Ukulele Practice Session \(August 26\)](#) - Grab your uke and practice songs for storytimes with other library staff.

Why Choose Discus?

No matter how your school district plans to operate this school year, students will need resources that they can trust.



Youth services library staff is invited to join Linda Heimbürger at 1:00 p.m. on August 14 to learn about Discus databases. Linda will showcase the best resources to share with parents and virtual options for homework help. [Registration](#) is required. [Watch this video](#) to learn how Discus helped students at South Florence High School tackle their toughest research challenges.



Schedule a Lunch Date With Us

Start a habit to spend Wednesday afternoons growing your skill set with these free lunchtime webinars.

Registration is required to receive virtual log-in credentials.

- [Creating a Diverse Patron Collection \(August 12\)](#) - What started as a diversity audit for the Cedar Rapids Library two years ago became the foundation for improving collection development. Hear from the librarians who made it possible and learn how the process can generate similar results for your library.
- [How to Run a Librarian-In-Training Program for Children \(August 19\)](#) - The next generation of librarians is anxious to learn the ropes. Meet the team from Johnson City Public Library that created a shadowing program and hear what it takes start a similar project.
- [Revisiting Two Classic Books: *Think and Grow Rich* and *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success* \(August 26\)](#) - We can all use a little motivation during these unprecedented times. Join us for an overview of these two classics that emphasizes the power that each of us has in determining our own destiny.

State Employees

Stay Current with Safari

Our physical building may be closed, but our digital library is wide open.

[Safari Books Online](#) gives you access to more than 8,000 books devoted to workplace tasks and challenges. Topics include adjusting to a technology based economy, keeping you and your coworkers motivated, and digital media. Your [State Library card](#) provides free access. Check it out today!

Ebooks

Safari  Books
Online

SC Residents



Authors of SC

Edgar Allen Poe arrived in Charleston in November 1827. Although Poe tried to hide his time in the Army by enlisting as Edgar Perry, the impact of his experiences while stationed at Fort Moultrie are evident in his writing. Author [Christopher Downey](#) details the hidden history of Poe in Charleston during the

next [Authors of SC event](#) at the Charleston County Public Library on August 29. Join us in person beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the [Main Library](#), or virtually [via YouTube](#).

Every Name Has a Story

Since June, our reference librarians have assisted the [Faces of Margraten](#) project in finding information about 32 South Carolina soldiers who are buried in Margraten Cemetery, the only American military cemetery in The Netherlands. To date, organizers have provided photos and information about 5,800 American soliders who

are among the nearly 10,000 lives that are honored there. Each discovery and connection with surviving relatives brings new hope that we will bring honor to every name. Follow the journey on social media using the hashtag #SCMargratenHeroes.



From Our Collection



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The [South Carolina Digital State Documents Depository](#) provides access to publications produced by state agencies and state-supported academic institutions. These publications provide citizens with crucial information about state government, including statistics, annual

accountability reports, and data on a wide variety of topics related to the state. The [July 2020 list of new South Carolina State Documents](#) is now available.

This month we highlight a report that provides history and statistics of hurricanes that have impacted South Carolina created by the South Carolina State Climatology Office. Learn more by downloading the [South Carolina Hurricanes Comprehensive Study](#) (PDF).

Want more information about SC and its libraries?

It can be in your inbox every month.



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For more information on the South Carolina State Library, and a list of our board members, please visit the [About Us](#) section on our website. Visit our Digital Collections to [view previous issues of More](#). ISSN 1554-5768